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Abstract

THE DRAGON PROJECT

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The Dragon Project is a joint undertaking between twelve European countries, under the sponsorship of the European Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, to carry out a programme of work in the field of graphite moderated, helium cooled, high temperature reactors. The history of the Project is first described, together with the more important provisions of the original Agreement of March 1959 for work in the five years from April 1959 and of the revised Agreement of November 1962 covering the eight-year period up to March 1967.

The Project's tasks, and the organisation and policies adopted for the execution of those tasks, are summarised, and a report of the present state of the Project's work is given.

The international aspects of the Project are examined and their effect upon the working of the Project is discussed. The relative advantages and disadvantages of the Project's form of organisation are reviewed.

A summary is given of the aims and objects of the programme of research and development work carried out in the Project. This work was initially directed to providing answers to specific problems which arose during the design phase of the reactor experiment but has been extended, wherever possible, to cover the more general problems arising in high temperature reactors. One very important aspect of the Project's research and development work has been, and is, the study of fuel elements for these reactors.

A description is given of the reactor experiment being built at Winfrith with particular emphasis on the features of this reactor experiment which should help in solving the problems of future high temperature reactors.

Finally, an account is given of the work which the Project has done on large high temperature reactors. The assumptions on which the work is based are set out and the steps being taken to prove or disprove these assumptions are discussed.

*One of the Joint Undertakings of the European Nuclear Energy Agency